

HOUSE BILL 924

By DuBois

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 3, Part 1; Title 8, Chapter 4, Part 1 and Title 8, Chapter 5, Part 1, relative to the secretary of state, the comptroller of the treasury, and the treasurer.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

**§ 8-3-109.**

(a) The secretary of state shall not:

- (1) Be an officer of any political party or political committee;
- (2) Offer or make any campaign contribution to any candidate for election to any office of state government or any political subdivision thereof;
- (3) Knowingly engage in any activity to directly or indirectly generate, collect or distribute campaign contributions for the benefit of any such candidate;
- (4) Permit the secretary's name to be used in support of or opposition to any such candidate; or
- (5) Otherwise participate in the election campaign of any such candidate.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not be construed to prevent an incumbent secretary of state from:

- (1) Casting a ballot in any election in which the secretary is a qualified voter; or
- (2) Requesting members of the general assembly to vote for the incumbent's reappointment as secretary of state.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-4-107, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following new language, to be designated as subsection (b):

(b)

(1) The comptroller of the treasury shall not:

(A) Be an officer of any political party or political committee;

(B) Offer or make any campaign contribution to any candidate for election to any office of state government or any political subdivision thereof;

(C) Knowingly engage in any activity to directly or indirectly generate, collect or distribute campaign contributions for the benefit of any such candidate;

(D) Permit the comptroller's name to be used in support of or opposition to any such candidate; or

(E) Otherwise participate in the election campaign of any such candidate.

(2) However, the provisions of subdivision (b)(1) shall not be construed to prevent an incumbent comptroller of the treasury from:

(A) Casting a ballot in any election in which the comptroller is a qualified voter; or

(B) Requesting members of the general assembly to vote for the incumbent's reappointment as comptroller of the treasury.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

**§ 8-5-113.**

(a) The state treasurer shall not:

(1) Be an officer of any political party or political committee;

(2) Offer or make any campaign contribution to any candidate for election to any office of state government or any political subdivision thereof;

(3) Knowingly engage in any activity to directly or indirectly generate, collect or distribute campaign contributions for the benefit of any such candidate;

(4) Permit the treasurer's name to be used in support of or opposition to any such candidate; or

(5) Otherwise participate in the election campaign of any such candidate.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not be construed to prevent an incumbent state treasurer from:

(1) Casting a ballot in any election in which the treasurer is a qualified voter; or

(2) Requesting members of the general assembly to vote for the incumbent's reappointment as state treasurer.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.